



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington St., S.W., Suite 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Tommy Benton
State Representative
State Capitol, Room 217
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification
Substitute to Senate Bill 117
(LC 43 1335S)

Dear Representative Benton:

This substitute bill would amend general provisions under the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law. Specifically, this bill would prohibit any retirement system from enacting any law, rule, regulation, resolution, or ordinance for creditable service unless the individual is required to pay the full actuarial cost of the service granted. This provision would not apply to credit for service in a retirement system that a member accrues while a contributing member of such system. Furthermore, this provision would not apply to or affect the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System or any local retirement system that is not a legislatively controlled retirement system.

Additionally, this substitute bill would authorize any retirement system affected by this bill to adopt a procedure for accepting payments for creditable service. Such procedures could allow members to make equal payments over a period of time, not to exceed 120 months.

Finally, this substitute bill would amend certain provisions under the Employees' Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System, and Sheriffs' Retirement Fund relating to the purchase of creditable service. If this legislation is enacted, persons who become members of these retirement systems on or after July 1, 2019 would be required to pay full actuarial cost for certain creditable service that is already authorized for members. Persons who are members of such systems prior to July 1, 2019 would still be eligible to purchase such creditable service in accordance with current laws.

This is to certify that this substitute bill is a nonfiscal retirement bill as defined in the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law.

Respectfully,

/s/ Greg S. Griffin

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

GSG/cs